**Joining of State capitals with major cities**

†1741.SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the project of joining capitals of different States and major cities with four lane National Highway under the National Highways Development Programme (NHDP);

(b) the fixed target of completion of third phase of this programme and by when it is likely to be completed; and

(c) the reasons for delay in completion of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The status of Natonal Highways Development Project (NHDP) as on 30.06.2006 is as under:

*(in km.)*

| Project | Total | 4-laned | Under Implementation | Balance for award |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Golden Quadrilateral | 5846 | 5409 | 437 | — |
| North-South & East-West Corridors | 7300* | 830 | 5063 | 1306 |
| Port Connectivity | 380 | 110 | 249 | 21 |
| Others | 945 | 287 | 638 | 20 |
| NHDP Phase IIIA | 4000 | 30 | 1090 | 2880 |

* Original approved length. However this length has reduced to 7199 km. due to realignments during construction.

(b) The target date for completion of NHDP Phase III A is December, 2009.

(c) NHDP Phase IIIA is in progress as per the schedule.

**Buckingham Canal Project**

1742. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three waterways have been identified for declaration of National Waterways;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Buckingham Canal is also included in that; and

(c) by when they are likely to be declared and developed for shipping and navigation?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No specific time-frame can be given in this regard at this stage.

**Development of National Waterways Project in Kerala**

1743. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team led by the Chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority was sent to Kerala to hold discussions with State Government officials regarding the development of National Waterways Project in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The officers of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) have held several rounds of discussions with the officials of the State Government of Kerala. Another round of discussions led by Chairman, IWAI with the State Government officials is also to take place shortly.

**Four-Laning of National Highway No. 17 in Kerala**

1744. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government had agreed to implement Rs.5000 crore highway project in Kerala to develop National Highway (NH-17) for four-lane traffic; and

(b) if so, the sectors in NH-17 already having four-lane and the sectors proposed to be taken up for converting to four-lane under the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The entire stretch of NH-17 in Kerala from Karnataka/Kerala border to Eddapally nearing 421 km. length has been identified for four-laning